




***OFFICE OF THE CHAIR
JOE A. MARTINEZ, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DISTRICT 11***

Memorandum

To: Honorable Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Chairman, Miami Dade County Sports Commission
George Burgess, County Manager

From: Joe A. Martinez, Chairman 

Date: August 23, 2006

Re: Marlins Stadium Proposal (City of Hialeah)

I have recently been approached by several media outlets who have inquired as to the different proposals being discussed by Miami Dade County, Major League Baseball (MLB), and the City of Hialeah. Just yesterday I was approached by the Sun Sentinel inquiring about the Hialeah proposal and an upcoming trip to New York to discuss their plans. Unfortunately, I was not able to respond to their inquiry as I was not aware of the trip or the specifics of what has been discussed to date.

While I understand that we as a County are eager to maintain the Marlins in Miami Dade County, we need to assure our citizens that if we are successful in doing so, that the outcome is fiscally prudent. To this end, the City of Hialeah has stated that they are either unwilling or unable to contribute a portion of their Tax Increment Funds (TIF) in an effort to close any possible funding gaps - a significant component of any proposal. Since I have not been a part of these discussions, I would like to reiterate that I will not support any proposal where, in this case, the City of Hialeah is unwilling to commit a TIF contribution. I strongly believe that this issue needs to be resolved locally prior to any commitments or discussions take place in New York with Major League Baseball.

If you should have any questions please call me at (305) 375-5511.

JM/jim

Cc: Honorable Mayor Carlos Alvarez
Honorable Vice-Chairman Dennis C. Moss and
Members of the Board of County Commissioners
Murray Greenberg, County Attorney